

# IDAHO NEWS RELEASE



IDAHO  
AGRICULTURAL  
STATISTICS  
SERVICE  
P.O. Box 1699  
Boise, ID 83701  
1-800-691-9987  
FAX: (208) 334-1114  
[www.nass.usda.gov/id](http://www.nass.usda.gov/id)

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## IDAHO FARM NUMBERS UNCHANGED

The number of farms and ranches in Idaho in 2002, at 24,000, is unchanged from the number of farms and ranches in the State during 2001. Total land in farms in Idaho, at 11.9 million acres, also remains unchanged from 2001. The average size of farm was 496 acres in 2002.

The number of farms and ranches in the United States in 2002 is estimated at 2.16 million, up 0.1 percent from 2001. The increase in farms and ranches occurred primarily in agricultural operations with sales in the \$1,000-\$9,999 economic class. Total land in farms, at 941.5 million acres, increased 170,000 acres from last year. The average size of farm at 436 acres, decreased one acre from 2001. The increase in the number of farms and land in farms primarily resulted from the inclusion of pasture only farms(100 acres or more) in 2002.

USDA'S definition of a farm is "any place from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally would have been sold, during the year." Government payments are included in sales. Ranches, institutional farms, experimental and research farms, and Indian Reservations are included as farms. Places with the entire acreage enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), or other government programs are counted as farms.

The definition of a farm was first established in 1850 and has changed nine times since. The current definition was first used for the 1974 census. Since 1974, minor modifications to a farm definition have been made.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Call (208) 334-1507